

Thank You

I hope that you have all been able to enjoy a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and are looking forward to the opportunities that the new year will bring. Following our charity appeals at the end of last term, I wanted to thank everyone for their generous contributions to the local charities that we supported. The charities themselves were overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and generosity of our school community and have contacted me to express their gratitude.

Pre prep supported the work of our local Salvation Army by collecting toys and gifts for disadvantaged children who might not have received any presents at Christmas.

Year 3 and 4 supported the Cambridge City Foodbank by collecting food items which formed Christmas hampers that were given to local families who are struggling to afford to feed themselves and their children in these difficult times.

Year 5 and 6 supported Jimmy's Night Shelter by putting together parcels of small gifts to show homeless people that they are not alone at Christmas.

Year 7 and 8 supported Cambridge Housing Services by putting together parcels of small gifts which were given to young, vulnerable people in our region who might otherwise not have received presents at Christmas.

The staff supported our local branch of Age UK by donating gifts which were given to older members of our community who are isolated and lonely and would not otherwise receive a Christmas gift.

The children also made Christmas cards which were distributed by Age UK, and were also given to residents of the Royal Albert Homes and the Arlington Manor care home.

I received a wonderful message from Age UK which perfectly sums up the reason why these activities are so important:

"On behalf of everyone at Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough I would like to thank the staff, students, parents and guardians at St Faiths School for your kind thoughts and donations given this Christmas. Your thoughtfulness enabled our staff to enjoy some seasonal happy moments with our service users. As you know we support older people. We help them to remain independent, to live in their own home and we give support physically, mentally and emotionally. In later life it can sometimes become easy to feel isolated and lonely, especially if you struggle with mobility, ill-health and those you love pass away. The cards and gifts we forwarded on from you were welcomed with delight and wonder – that others (strangers) were thinking of them, showing kindness and sending well wishes. With so many heartfelt thanks we can only hope you understand the gratitude and appreciation we pass back to you. Christmas can be a very lonely time, your kindness made it a little more bearable for some. Thank you."

This message is from an Age UK volunteer who delivered one of our cards and gifts to an elderly gentleman:

"I delivered Christmas gift and card from St Faiths on Sunday to my chap, I was unable to take pics or video, he's in a hospital bed, but I just wanted to let you know his response. On arrival my usual jovial chap was in a low mood, yes he had not long woken up but he told me he was fed up and did not think life would come to this. He has no family and just sees the carers and me."

*His face lit up when I gave him the card and present, "what for me?". I then read the card and he was so touched by the words from a child and his classmates.
Please say thank you to St Faith's, I left my chap with a smile on his face because someone thought about him. It really was special."*

I wanted to pass on my sincere thanks to everyone for taking part in our charity collections, being able to make someone smile and feel a little less lonely is a really special thing to be able to do.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year

Miss E Kennerley

